

USA Comments -- Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

October 2006 Report

General Comment: The United States supports the changes proposed for this chapter. We are recommending some changes to the syntax for clearer understanding. These few changes are shown in "red font" or as a strike-through. A couple of comments are also made.

CHAPTER 2.2.2.

INFECTION WITH *BONAMIA EXITIOSA*

Article 2.2.2.3.

Commodities

1. When authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities*, the *Competent Authorities* should not require any *Bonamia exitiosa* related conditions, regardless of the *Bonamia exitiosa* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:

a) ...

- c) All *commodities* from *Crassostrea gigas*, ~~*C. virginica*~~ and *Saccostrea glomerata*, including the live aquatic animal.

For the *commodities* referred to in point 1b), Member Countries should consider introducing internal measures to prevent the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of *commodities* of a species referred to in Article 2.2.2.2., other than *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.2.2.3., the *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 2.2.2.7. to 2.2.2.11. relevant to the *Bonamia exitiosa* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
3. When considering the importation or transit of any other *commodity* from bivalve species not referred to in Article 2.2.2.2. (especially those of the genus *Ostrea*) nor in point 1c) of Article 2.2.2.3., from an *exporting country, zone or compartment* not declared free of *Bonamia exitiosa*, the *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of *Bonamia exitiosa*, and the potential consequences, associated with the importation of the *commodity* prior to a decision. The *exporting country* should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Comment [mjd1]: It is not fully clear these two specific exemptions? For that matter, all *Crassostrea* species, or all shellfish species not considered susceptible as included in 2.2.2.2? could be exempted. This section should be left out and the issue deferred to point 3 below.

Article 2.2.2.4.

***Bonamia exitiosa* free country**

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Bonamia exitiosa* if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

...

OR

4. A country that has made a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Bonamia exitiosa* but in which the *disease* is detected may ~~not~~ make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Bonamia exitiosa* again ~~until~~ **when** the following conditions have been met:
 - a) ...

Article 2.2.2.5.

***Bonamia exitiosa* free zone or free compartment**

...

OR

4. A *zone* previously declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* but in which the *disease* is detected may ~~not~~ be declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* again ~~until~~ **when** the following conditions have been met:
 - a) ...